PROCLAMATION

A CHALLENGE TO WORLD LEADERS

IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH WORLD PEACE, PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS BY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE—REAL REMEDY SUGGESTED—ISSUE VITAL TO ALL NATIONS OF EARTH — INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS PASS RESOLUTION

WITHOUT doubt the greatest assembly of fully consecrated Christians ever held on earth was that of the International Bible Students Association at Cedar Point, Ohio, September 5-13, inclusive. From all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe the delegates came, to the number of 10,000 and more. On Sunday afternoon, September 10, when Judge Rutherford, President of the Association, delivered his world-famous address, "Millions Now Living Will Never Die," between 18,000 and 20,000 were in the assembly. So great was the multitude that it was necessary to hold the meeting out of doors, but by the use of a Magnavox every one could hear distinctly the speaker's words.

Since the Paris peace conference convened, the leaders of the world have attempted to establish peace and prosperity on earth by national treaties. It is admitted by all, and is well illustrated by the accompanying cartoon published in the New York *American*, that these efforts have borne little if any fruit. The Bible Students hold that the reason for this failure is that the old world or order of things has come to an end, that the new is beginning. They hold that the nation of Israel was a typical nation and that God's dealings with that people foreshadowed what would transpire with reference to the nations of "Christendom"; hence that the prophecies then addressed to Israel have a broader fulfillment now upon the nations of earth which call themselves Christian.

For forty years and more before the World War the Bible Students, under the leadership of Pastor Russell, predicted that 1914 would mark the beginning of world trouble. Their predictions came true, as the facts now fully show.

The Bible Students hold and teach that the Lord's kingdom for which Christians have been praying for nineteen hundred years is at hand, and that the Lord Jesus, invisible to man, is now present and beginning His reign, that the nations are now dashing themselves to pieces to make way for the righteous reign of Messiah, and that His reign will bring the desire of all nations, namely, peace on earth, good will to men, life, liberty, and happiness.

Members of the Bible Students Association have been unusually active during the past few months in delivering this message of good news concerning Messiah's kingdom. A book on the same subject, "Millions Now Living Will Never Die," by Judge Rutherford, to the number of several million copies, has been placed in the hands of the people.

At the conclusion of Judge Rutherford's address at Cedar Point on Sunday afternoon, he read and moved the adoption of a resolution set forth in full below. The resolution was received with tremendous applause; and when the vote was taken every person in the vast audience arose amidst a shout of "ayes," unanimously adopting the resolution. Both the resolution and the address put the issue squarely before the peoples of the earth and will be read with keenest interest by all thinking people. It will pay to take the time to carefully study both in the light of present-day events. Both the resolution and the address follow:

RESOLUTION

Adopted by International Bible Students Association at Cedar Point, September 10, 1922

The International Bible Students in convention assembled deem it a duty and privilege to send this message to the nations of earth.

As a body of Christians consecrated to obey and follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we are opposed to engaging in war, revolution, anarchy, or violence in any form; and we are opposed to fraud and deception being practised upon the people by the misrepresentation of the Word of God or otherwise. We earnestly desire peace, prosperity and the blessing of the people with life, liberty and happiness; and we hold that the only means by which this can be accomplished is by and through the reign of Christ.

In the light of the Word of God, and particularly of fulfilled prophecy, we submit the following as a true statement of the facts relating to present conditions:

THE HELPLESS RULER OF EUROPE

1. That the rulers of earth have frequently boasted that the World War was fought to make the world safe for democracy, which claim has proven to be a delusion and a snare;

2. That the international conferences at Paris, Washington, Genoa and The Hague, participated in by the financiers and statesmen and approved by the denominational clergy of the world, held for the purpose, as announced, of establishing peace on earth, have failed to bring forth the desired results;

3. That all of the nations of earth are now in distress and perplexity, as the Lord foretold they would be at this time, and that the entire social and political structure is threatened with complete dissolution; and the leading statesmen and rulers of the earth being aware of this fact and of their inability to establish peace and prosperity are frantically calling upon the denominational churches to save the world from disaster;

4. That it is the desire of all nations and peoples of earth that they might dwell in peace and enjoy life, liberty and happiness;

5. That the people are being misled by those who are attempting to bring about this desire through international conferences and agreements in the form of the League of Nations and like compacts.

We therefore call upon all the nations of earth, their rulers and leaders, and upon all the clergymen of all the denominational churches of earth, their followers and allies, big business and big politicians, to bring forth their proof in justification of the position taken by them that they can establish peace and prosperity on earth and bring happiness to the people; and their failing in this, we call upon them to give ear to the testimony that we offer as witnesses for the Lord, and then let them say whether or not our testimony is true.

Relying upon the Word of God and His providential dealings with mankind through Christ Jesus, we as His witnesses hold and testify as follows, to wit:

1. That the World War came in 1914 and was followed by great famines, pestilences and revolutions in various parts of the earth exactly as foretold by the Lord;

2. That 1914 marked the legal ending of the old world and there Christ the rightful King took unto Himself His power as King;

3. That the Lord Jesus Christ is now present, invisible to man, and proceeding with the work of establishing His kingdom, for which kingdom He taught His followers to pray;

4. That Satan, long the god of this world, has deceived the statesmen, financiers and the clergy, by inducing them to believe that by international agreement or other combined efforts they can bring the desire of all nations;

5. That all of the world's present organization constitutes the visible part of Satan's empire or organization, and that Satan's empire must now fall before the forward march of the King of glory;

6. That all international conferences and all agreements or treaties resulting therefrom, including the League of Nations compact and all like compacts, must fail, because God has decreed it thus;

7. That all efforts of the denominational church organizations, their clergy, their leaders and their allies, to save and re-establish the order of things in the earth and to bring peace and prosperity must of necessity fail, because they do not constitute any part of the kingdom of Messiah;

8. That on the contrary, during the World War the clergy of these various church denominations were disloyal to the Lord Jesus Christ in this, that they wrongfully united with big business and big politicians to further the World War; they preached men into the trenches and falsely and blasphemously told them that their death upon the battle-field would be counted as a part of the vicarious atonement of Jesus Christ;

9. That they further repudiated the Lord and His kingdom and showed their disloyalty by voluntarily uniting themselves with Satan's organization and boldly announcing to the world that the League of Nations is the political expression of God's kingdom on earth, which announcement so made by them was in utter disregard of the words of Jesus and the apostles.

10. We further hold and testify that this is the day of God's vengeance against Satan's empire visible and invisible;

11. That the re-establishment of the old world or order is an impossibility; that the time is here for the establishment of the kingdom of God through Christ Jesus; and that all the powers and organizations that do not willingly submit to the righteous reign of the Lord will be destroyed;

12. That if the politicians would faithfully represent the people, and big business would cease exploiting the people, and the clergy would tell the people the truth concerning God's arrangement, and the people would cease from strife, the kingdom of Messiah would be established by Him without further trouble or distress; but failing thus to do, greater trouble must shortly follow;

13. That for this reason there is now impending and about to fall upon the nations of the earth, according to the words of Christ Jesus, a great time of "tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be again"; and it is this impending trouble that the rulers and mighty men of earth see coming.

But we hold and declare that Messiah's kingdom is the complete panacea for all the ills of humankind and will bring peace on earth and good will to men, the desire of all nations; that those who yield themselves willingly to His righteous reign now begun will be blessed with lasting peace, life, liberty and endless happiness.

Therefore we bring to the peoples of earth God's message of good tidings contained in the Bible, His Word of truth, and we publish to them His message of peace and everlasting salvation, to wit, that the King of Glory, the Deliverer of man, is invisibly present and has begun His reign; that the old world, under the control of Satan, has ended and is being rapidly broken in pieces, to make way for the everlasting kingdom of righteousness now being set up, and that millions of people now living on earth, if obedient to the laws of that righteous kingdom, will continue to live and never die; and we call upon all nations, peoples, kindreds and tongues who love righteousness and hate iniquity to recognize and freely acknowledge that Jehovah is the only true God and His beloved Son Christ Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Entered as second class matter at Brooklyn, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Excerpts from Judge Rutherford's Lecture

MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE

Advocates of the World War claimed the war was fought to make the world safe for democracy. Eight years have passed since then, and democracy is in greater peril than before the war.

The World War resulted in increased sorrows and burdens to mankind. The Paris conference was held to devise ways and means to prevent another like catastrophe. The League of Nations was the fruit of that effort, which league was hailed as the liberator of man and the savior of the world. It has been a signal failure.

The Washington disarmament conference, participated in by the same powers and people, brought forth a treaty which it was claimed would establish peace and prosperity. The effort has been abortive; the treaty a failure.

The Genoa conference of the same powers and people made another desperate effort to solve the perplexing situation. The British premier there exclaimed: "We must realize that Europe is not in good form. Unless this conference succeeds in arranging a pact of peace, again Europe will welter in blood." It is admitted that the Genoa conference accomplished nothing.

Then followed the Hague conference —with the same avowed purpose; and it has brought forth wind.

And now the powers that be, in desperation, call upon the Church of Rome and her daughters, the other denominational churches, to save the world from impending disaster. They also must fail.

Why do all these efforts of man to establish peace and to patch up the old order of things fail? A voice from the past, the voice of God speaking through his prophets, sounds out the answer clear and strong: "The world has ended; Satan's empire is under judgment; this is the day of God's vengeance; the kingdom of heaven is at hand"; hence the old order must go.

God foreknew that the nominal churches through the faithless clergy would make an unlawful alliance with Satan's earthly representatives, to wit, big business and big politicians. He foreknew that they would disregard the kingdom of heaven for which they were taught to pray and that they would attempt to bring forth Satan's substitute for that kingdom; hence he caused his prophet to write these words of a clear warning which apply and are fulfilled at this time: "Associate yourselves, O ye people and ye shall be broken in pieces; and give ear, all ye of far countries: gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces; gird yourselves, and ye shall be broken in pieces. Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand."—Isaiah 8:9, 10.

With the whole world reeling to and fro like a drunken man, is it not time for sober-minded persons to pause and inquire the reason why and to ascertain if there is a remedy for this present condition of distress and perplexity? Of whom shall we inquire? you may ask. I answer, Let the people inquire of the Lord through his inspired prophets as recorded in his Word—the Bible.

Prophecy means foretelling events that are to happen. When those events do happen in exact conformity to the words of prophecy then we may be sure that we have reached the time appointed of God for the fulfillment of such prophecy. From the days of Abraham devout people have looked for the coming of the Messianic kingdom. From the time of Jesus' first advent Christians have prayed and hoped for the coming of his kingdom. So strongly was this impressed upon the minds of his disciples that amongst the last things they asked him was the question: "Master, tell us, what shall be the proof of thy presence and the end of the world?" He answered them, and his answer was couched in prophetic phrase. The prophecy then uttered by him is now fulfilled or is in course of fulfillment. Briefly summed up his answer was that at that time there will be a world war, famine, pestilence and revolutions in divers parts of the earth, and these things shall constitute the beginning of the sorrows upon the peoples and nations.

For more than forty years Bible Students have called attention to the fact that 1914 would mark the beginning of earth's trouble. Why? Because that date marked the end of the gentile times. The period of the gentiles began in the year 606 B.C., and according to God's Word was to continue for 2520 years; therefore it must end in 1914. During the gentile times the nations of earth have been under the domination of Satan as the god of this world. Having the human race under his dominion, he would not willingly surrender unto the Messiah; hence as Jesus foretold, when the time would come for this reign the nations would become angry and God's wrath would come. This prophecy has been fulfilled.

Doctrines of the Kingdom

Briefly stated, the great fundamental doctrines that have always been taught by sincere Christians are these:

That the first man was created perfect, but because of sin he fell and was sentenced to die; that while undergoing this sentence his children were born; that without redemption death must be the end of all because all are imperfect and therefore born sinners; that God in his loving kindness promised redemption of the human race, saying through his prophet: "I will redeem them from death; I will purchase them from the power of the grave." (Hosea 13:14) Through Moses God promised to raise up a mighty one of whom Moses was a type, which mighty one should deliver the nations and peoples of earth from Satan, sin and death. Such deliverer is the Lord Jesus coming in his glory. Jesus came in the flesh and taught concerning the divine plan. He must die in order to become the Redeemer of mankind and then arise from the dead a divine creature. He died upon the cross. God raised him up, and he ascended into heaven. He promised to return and to set up his kingdom of righteousness and through that kingdom to bless all the families of earth.

Previously Jehovah had promised Abraham: "In thy seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Christ, the Messiah is that seed. The church, the glorified members of his body, are to be associated with him.

The Trouble

Before this promised blessing can come there must be a King and he must be present. Satan must be ousted from his power. The King of glory now present is ousting Satan; hence the war and other troubles that have followed, as our Lord himself foretold.

Satan now attempts to reform his own kingdom and deceives the rulers of earth, by bringing forth a counterfeit of the Messianic kingdom and calling it the association or League of the Nations of earth to control mankind. Since the time is here for the establishment of the Lord's kingdom, then all efforts of Satan and his agents to establish the old order of necessity must fail. The Lord's kingdom now must be established. If the nations of earth would peaceably surrender and render obedience to the Lord, the kingdom would be established without trouble. If not, then trouble must follow to oust Satan and the unrighteousness of earth.

It is admitted that politicians, financiers and the combined ecclesiasticism of earth have failed to establish the desire of nations. Why, then, do not those who claim to follow and represent the Lord take heed to his Word and join with us in telling the people what his Word teaches concerning the blessings through the Messianic kingdom? Because of their failure thus to do and because of uniting in the unholy alliance with others of Satan's agencies, the great conflict must follow. It is inevitable.

Armageddon

Satan's organization composed of big business, big politicians and big preachers is bad enough. But a wild, senseless mob, without sense of justice and bereft of reason, is a thousand times worse. Such now menaces all nations. The nations and peoples of earth are rapidly approaching a great cataclysm. Pictured from the prophetic words of the Lord, I see a mighty upheaval, a veritable avalanche of blood and fire, starting in Russia and sweeping over the earth. It is fed by greed, selfishness, hatred and malice. It was provoked by the profiteers who have exploited and robbed the people; by the politicians who have misrepresented the people; and by the preachers who have deceived and misled the people, all directed and operated by the devil's mastermind. Now Satan and the loosened demons have also seized the minds of the radical element of humanity and they are going to extremes. Unless divine power intervenes, the result will be too terrible for description in human words.

There is a great conflict between labor on the one side and capital on the other. There is wrong upon both sides and both must and will fail in their efforts to overcome and crush each other. There is now only one possible thing that could avert this great Armageddon, and this, as suggested by the prophet Jeremiah, is, that if the profiteers would cease exploiting and robbing the people; if the politicians would honestly represent the people; if the preachers would divorce themselves from the unholy alliance and preach the truth of God's Word; and if the people would become calm and quiet and sanely turn their minds to the Lord's Word and follow his direction, then the kingdom would be established without further difficulty. They will not do it.

The Happy Solution

The happy solution is indicated by the Lord's Word through his prophet: "I will shake all nations, and then the desire of all nations shall come."—Haggai 2:7.

Jesus, speaking of this great time of trouble, says: "Except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." The conclusion must be drawn, then, that many human beings will be saved and pass through the trouble. This is corroborated by the prophet Zechariah, who says that many will be brought through the trouble and participate in the blessings that the Lord has in store for the obedient ones.

St. Paul states that the purpose of the coming of the Lord and his kingdom is to try and to judge the living and the dead. It follows, then, that there will be many living at the beginning of his judgment and that the obedient ones will continue to live.

The apostle Peter says that it will be a time of refreshing, a time of restoration of all things which God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Acts 3:19-24) The establishment of the Messianic kingdom means the beginning of the golden age for which Christians have hoped and prayed for centuries. It is the time spoken of by the prophet, in which he says: "When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive, he shall surely live, he shall not die." (Ezekiel 18:27, 28) It is that time to which Jesus referred when he said: "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death"; "and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."—John 8:51; 11:26.

The great dark night that just now precedes this era of wonderful blessing seems necessary to turn the hearts of the people to the Lord. Those doing so will be restored to fullness of health and strength of body and mind and will dwell on the earth forever.

The Bible, then, shows that the remedy for the ills of the human race is the kingdom of Messiah, which is at the door; that there is no other remedy. The time has come when the people must know that Jehovah is God and that Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Lord will now have a people in the earth as witnesses for him, that his purposes may be carried out; and he commands that "this gospel [good news, to make glad the sad ones] of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." Let all Christians who love the Lord and love righteousness, and who have prayed for the coming of his kingdom, now participate in spreading the glad tidings that the Lord Jesus is present; that the present trouble is the forerunner of blessings; and that the time for the blessing of the people with life, liberty and happiness is here. Therefore with confidence it is announced that millions now living will never die. Speaking of these, God's prophet says: "Then God is gracious unto man and says, Deliver him from going down into the grave. His flesh shall become fresher than a child's, and he shall return to the days of his youth."—Job 33:24, 25.

Let those who are sad of heart look up and rejoice. The dark night of trouble will soon be past; and soon the peoples of earth, under the righteous reign of Messiah, will enjoy peace, liberty, prosperity and life everlasting.

A detailed and Scriptural explanation as to the cause of the World War, famines, pestilence, revolution, distress of nations, and what shall speedily follow, made in the following publications:

MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE

A book of 128 pages; a complete report of Judge Rutherford's lecture, with over 400 Scriptural proofs, 25c.

THE HARP OF GOD

A book of 384 pages, handsomely bound in cloth, explaining the ten fundamental doctrines of the Bible and the reason why prophecy is now being fulfilled; a complete statement of how the peoples will get life everlasting, peace and happiness; together with a course of Bible study with twelve lessons, 65c.

CAN THE LIVING TALK WITH THE DEAD?

A book of 128 pages exposing the fallacy of spiritism and demonism; a real protection for every one in this hour of stress; paper covers, 25c.

THE FINISHED MYSTERY

The first explanation of the prophecy of Ezekiel and the Revelation ever published; a great eye-opener for Bible students; explains why the nominal church has failed; a book of 600 pages, bound in cloth, 55c.

STUDIES IN THE SCRIPTURES

A complete library of Bible study; Pastor Russell's life works in seven volumes, $3.70.

SPECIAL COMBINATION OFFER

"MILLIONS NOW LIVING WILL NEVER DIE," "CAN THE LIVING TALK WITH THE DEAD?" and "THE FINISHED MYSTERY," (Cloth bound) all for... 78c

Address and remit by postal money order to INTERNATIONAL BIBLE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION, Brooklyn, New York, U. S. A.